

G-II-B-190

John Bowser Farm  
Strawn  
Private

This farm comprises a two-story, ell-plan frame house, a frame bank barn, and several outbuilding.

Dave Wilttrout bought this farm from John Bowser in 1902. Shortly, thereafter he built the present dwelling to replace the small vertical plank house that Bowser had built. A log house reportedly predated Bowser's structure. The barn is said to date from c. 1870

The building sequence of these structures exhibits the three most common forms of wood construction in Garrett County-log, vertical plank, and balloon frame. This sequence also appears at the J. Bunnell Friend Farm. (G-III-A-049).

The historical character of this farm is enhanced by the use of non-electric appliances and plumbing fixtures.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Bowser House

AND/OR COMMON

Ralph J. Bowser Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Pig's Ear Rd. - E side, 1.5 miles S of Strawn

CITY, TOWN

Strawn

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ralph J. Bowser

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 132

Folio #: 295

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dave Wilttrout Farm is located on the east side of Pig's Ear Road approximately 1.5 miles south of Strawn. The farm is set back from the road .2 mile and includes a dwelling, a shed, a privy, a bank barn, and a hog pen.

The house is a two story, gable-roofed building of balloon frame construction. Its basic configuration is an ell-plan that consists of a three bay by one bay main block and a one bay by one bay rear wing. A shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts extends across the facade, continues around to the northeast endwall and the rear wall, and terminates on the northeast side of the rear wing. The facade has a symmetrical three bay, center door arrangement. Its door and the rear door are both topped by single-pane transom lights. All windows are one over one sash with plain board surrounds and molded drip boards. Also, each of the three gables is lit by a small diamond window with plain board surrounds and bullseye cornerblocks. The exterior walls have been covered with brick-patterned asphalt siding but the roof retains its original stamped tin shingles. An interior brick chimney is located on the ridgeline of the rear wing, and is attached to a wood-burning cookstove in the kitchen.

The interior is laid out in a two room, center stair plan with a rear kitchen wing. The staircase is enclosed and the two doorways on either side of the stairs are set at 45 degree angles to the walls. The house rests on a coursed, roughly squared stone foundation that provides a basement to the area under the main block. This basement is used as cold storage. Except for the asphalt siding the house has undergone no alterations. Neither electricity nor plumbing was ever installed. The rooms are lit with kerosene lamps and heated with a wood-burning stove.

A two-room, gable-roofed, vertical plank shed with a porch is located just behind (east) of the house. The privy, which is a frame, gable-roofed building, stands just northeast of this shed. The barn sits on a coursed, squared stone foundation further east. Its frame is constructed of hewn timbers mortise and tenoned together. Shed wings have been added to both long walls and a new roof has been installed. The hog pen, which is located north of the barn, consists of a fenced area and a small, frame shed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dave Wiltrout bought this farm from John Bowser in 1902. Shortly thereafter he built the present dwelling to replace the small vertical-plank house that Bowser had built. A log house reportedly predated Bowser's structure. The barn is said to date from c.1870.

The building sequence of these structures exhibits the three most common forms of wood construction in Garrett County-log, vertical plank, and balloon frame. This sequence also appears at the J. Bunnell Friend Farm (G-III-A-049)

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**NAME / TITLE Significance statement: Merry Stinson, Architectural Historian  
Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

July 1981

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

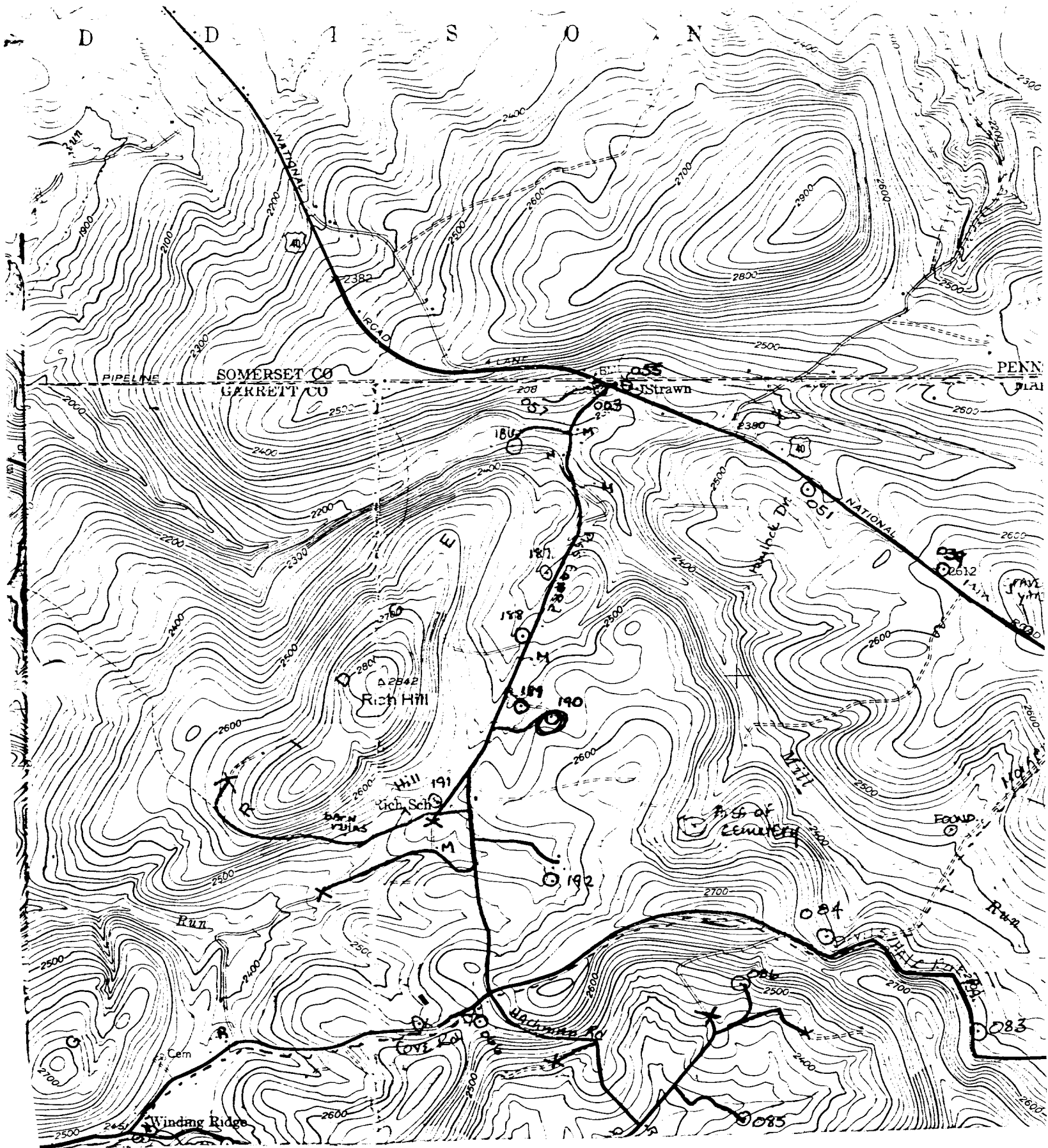
Annapolis.

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Accident, MD-PA  
 USGS 7.5 minute series  
 Scale-1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-II-B-190  
 John Bowser House  
 Pig's Ear Rd., approx. 1 1/2 miles  
 south of Strawn



G-II-B-190

John Bowser House

Garrett Co., MD

Photo: A. Burns 7 Nov. 1980

Hs-Facade-NW elev; SW elev.





G-II-B-190

John Bowser House

Garrett Co., MD

Photo: A. Burns 7 Nov. 1980

Hs, SE & NE elevs.



G-II-B-190

John Bowser House

Garrett Co., MD

Photo: A. Burns 7 Nov. 1980

Barn, N & W elevs.



G-II-B-190

John Bowser House

Garrett Co., MD

Photo: A. Burns 7 Nov. 1980

The shed, NW & SW elevs.